

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FOREIGN MISISTER/KIRCHSCHLAEGEGER'S COMMENTS
ON U.S. ENERGY INITIATIVES AND AUSTRIAN
ENERGY SITUATION

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

1. (BEGIN SUMMARY) DURING RECENT RADIO INTERVIEW, FONMIN
KIRCHSCHLAEGEGER ANSWERED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS RELATING
TO THE ENERGY SITUATION. HIS REPLIES CAN BE CON-
SIDERED TO REFLECT THE GOA POSITION IN THE PRESENT
SITUATION. KIRCHSCHLAEGEGER SAID HE DID NO REGARD
PRESIDENT NIXON'S ENERGY PLAN AS INVOLVING THE DANGER
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OF CONFRONTATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR WITH

OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. (END SUMMARY)

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION REGARDING VARIOUS PLANS AND MEETINGS, KIRCHSCHLAEGER SAID HE DID NOT REGARD PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLANS FOR DEALING WITH WORLD ENERGY CRISIS AS INVOLVING DANGER OF CONFRONTATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THAT PLAN WAS NOT INTENDED AS CONFRONTATION WITH OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. DECISION OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH ARAB COUNTRIES DOES NOT MUCH AFFECT AUSTRIA BECAUSE GOA HAS HAD SUCH DIALOGUES BEFORE OCTOBER 1973 AND WITH GOOD SUCCESS. FACT THAT AUSTRIA RECEIVED DIRECT OIL DELIVERIES FROM MIDDLE EAST, EVEN AT DIFFICULT TIMES LAST NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, WAS RESULT OF AGREEMENTS AUSTRIA HAD CONCLUDED AS EARLY AS SUMMER OF 1973. FRENCH PLAN FOR UN CONFERENCE SOMEWHAT OUTDATED, SINCE THIS HAD ALREADY BEEN PROPOSED BY ALGERIAN PREMIER BOUMEDIENE.

3. NEXT QUESTION DEALT WITH AUSTRIAN ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES OF EEC AND HOW THIS AFFECTS AUSTRIA'S ATTITUDE. KIRCHSCHLAEGER REPLIED THAT IT HAS BEEN MAJOR AIM OF AUSTRIAN ECONOMY TO DEVELOP AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY IN ENERGY SECTOR. AUSTRIA IS LOOKING FOR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN EVERY DIRECTION WITH COUNTRIES OF THE EEC AND ALSO WITH CEMA STATES. AUSTRIA WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP SOURCES OF ENERGY SUPPLY AS DIVERSIFIED AS POSSIBLE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER FRENCH PLAN FOR WORLDWIDE ENERGY CONFERENCE WOULD BEST SERVE AUSTRIA'S GOALS AS A SMALL COUNTRY, KIRCHSCHLAEGER SAID THAT GOA HAD DECLARED ITS CONSENT TO A DISCUSSION OF ENTIRE RAW MATERIAL PROBLEM, INCLUDING ENERGY, AT THE UN. AUSTRIA DOES NOT WANT TO PERSUE ANY ENERGY POLICY OR ECONOMIC POLICY THAT IS DIRECTED AGAINST ANYONE BUT WANTS TO PURSUE SUCH POLICIES TOGETHER WITH OTHER STATES, IN COMPLIANCE WITH AUSTRIA'S STATUS AS NEUTRAL STATE BUT ALSO IN LINE WITH AUSTRIA'S TRADITIONS. HE CON-

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CLUDED BY SAYING, QUOTE. WE ARE MORE INCLINED TO COOPERATION THAN TO CONTROVERSY. END QUOTE. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

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5. COMMENT: FOREGOING IS CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS COMMENTS MADE BY GOA OFFICIALS ON US ENERGY INITIATIVES. ALTHOUGH IN BROADER RAW MATERIAL CONTEXT, GOA SUPPORTS

IDEA OF A UN CONFERENCE, WHICH FON MIN KIRCHSCHLAEGER
WILL PROBABLY ATTEND HIMSELF, AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS CONTINUE
TO WATCH WITH KEEN INTEREST THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ENERGY
COORDINATING GROUP AND PRIVATELY EXPRESS THEIR HOPE
THAT US AIM FOR CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE CAN BE
ACHIEVED. (END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) TRINK

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